FORTH & CLYDE CANAL FACILITIES AND DISTANCES

[Distances are approximate, to nearest mile]

	Bowling	Dalmuir	Clydebank	Boghouse Locks	Temple Locks	Applecross St	Speirs Wharf	The Stables	Kirkintilloch	Auchinstarry	Craigmarloch	Wyndford (L20)	Underwood (L17)	Bonnybridge	Falkirk Wheel	Camelon (L16)	Bainsford (L6)	Grangemouth (L2)
Visitor Mooring	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Water	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Refuse disposal	✓									✓					✓			✓
Parking	✓							✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Toilets	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓					✓			✓
Shower	✓				✓				✓	✓					✓			✓
Elsan Disposal	✓				✓				✓	✓					✓			✓
Pump-out	✓				✓	✓			✓	✓					✓			✓
Slipway	✓								✓	✓					✓			
Fuel (diesel)	✓									✓					✓			✓
Information	✓					✓			✓	✓					✓			✓
Pub	✓							✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	
Restaurant	✓		✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Boat hire															✓			
Places of Interest	✓								✓	✓					✓			
Miles to Grangemouth	35	32	30	29	27	23	22	21	19	14	13	10	8	6	4	3	2	0
Miles to Bowling	0	3	5	6	8	12	13	14	16	21	22	25	27	29	31	32	33	35

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL INFORMATION

CASH POINT, POST OFFICE, SHOPS
Within 10 minutes walk:
Drop Lock - east on Dumbarton Road
Argyle Road Bridge, Clydebank (shopping complex)
Lock 35 - Canalside shop
Bard Ave Bascule Br - Canalside shop
Lock 27 - S along Crow Rd to Safeway and other shops
Applecross St - 15 mins walk to Glasgow centre
Kirkintilloch - all main street shops adjacent to canal
Auchinstarry Basin - in Kilsyth (20 min walk)
Bonnybridge - N on A803
Lock 16 - Nearby, and N on Camelon Main Street
Lock 5 - S into Falkirk town centre
Lock 2 - service station shop at M9 junction 6

FUEL ADJACENT TO CANAL
Service stations near Dalmuir Lock, Argyle Rd Clydebank, Lock 27
Bonnybridge - N on A803 - 01324 813708
Red diesel - Bowling; Auchinstarry; F&C at Falkirk Wheel; Grangemouth

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY
Bowling to Lock 36 - Vale of Leven 01389 754121
E of Lock 36 - Western Infirmary 0141 211 2000; Glasgow Royal Infirmary 0141 211 4000; Stobhill Hospital 0141 201 3000
Falkirk Royal Infirmary (minor A&E) 01324 624000
Stirling Royal Infirmary 01786 434000

TRANSPORT INFORMATION
Traveline 0870 6082608
National Rail 08457 484950
First Bus 0141 613777

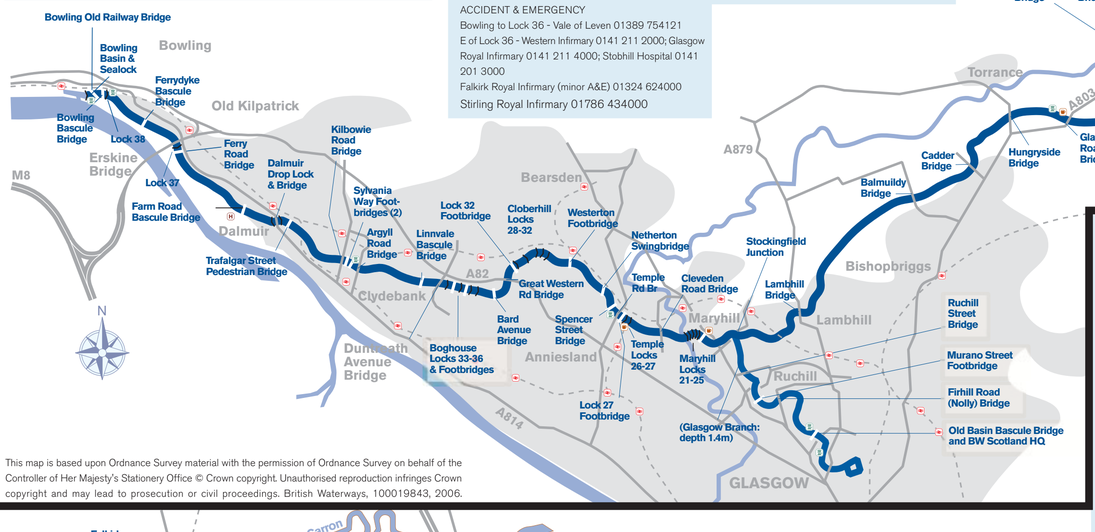
CANALSIDE PUBS/ RESTAURANTS
Clydebank: McMonagle's Sail Thru' Fish & Chips (advance orders 0141 951 2444). Pizza Hut / MacDonalds within Clydebank Retail Park.
Temple: Lock 27 and The Canal
Glasgow Road Bridge: The Stables
Lock 20: Glenskirlie House Hotel
Lock 17 - Bar 17 & Underwood Lock House
Bonnybridge: Cornhill Inn; Royal Hotel (5mins N of bridge)
The Falkirk Wheel: Visitor Centre Café.
Lock 16: The Union Inn
Lock 15: The Canal Inn
Lock 11: The Rosebank Beefeater
Lock 5: Bar & Restaurant
* Please ask BW staff for advice on pubs, facilities and mooring points

PUBS WITHIN A FEW MINUTES WALK
Bowling: The Railway Inn & The Littlemill Inn
Applecross St: 15 mins walk to Glasgow centre
Kirkintilloch: Bar Bliss; The Kirky Puffer

BOAT REPAIRS AND SERVICES
Chandlers - Hulley Marine, Dumbarton 01389 742438 & Duncan Yacht Chandlers, Glasgow 0141 429 6044.
Engine repairs - J N Macdonald & Co 0141 334 6171
Forth Yacht Marina, Grangemouth. 01324 665071
Kelvin Marine, Grangemouth. 01324 471535 & 07833 953288

TAXI SERVICES
Bowling (01389) 742121
Clydebank (0141) 941 1101; 952 1111
Glasgow W (0141) 944 8111
Glasgow TOA (0141) 429 7070
Bishopbriggs (0141) 772 7070
Kirkintilloch (0141) 776 0055
Cumbernauld (01236) 738383; 729501
Kilsyth (01236) 826666; 822333
Bonnybridge (01324) 815333; 840000.
Falkirk (01324) 633677; 612221; 628000; 636000; 611116; 619333; 623380; 623999
Grangemouth (01324) 471621

VISITOR MOORINGS
See facilities grid



This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. British Waterways, 100019843, 2006.

UNION CANAL INFORMATION

CASH POINT, POST OFFICE, SHOPS
Within 10 minutes walk.
Falkirk Town Centre - 1.2km from Walkers Bridge (62), or bus from Falkirk Wheel
Brightons - S of Bridge 54
Linlithgow - N of Manse Rd Basin
Winchburgh High St (N of Br 32)
Port Buchan (S of Br)
Ratho
Wester Hailes Shell Garage S of Br 7
N of Ashley Terrace Bridge

CANAL SIDE SHOP
LUCS Tearoom, Gift Shop and Museum at Manse Road Basin. (open 7 days July & August; otherwise 2–5pm Sats & Suns)

GARAGES & FUEL
Linlithgow: red diesel ('phone ahead 01506 842559) through LUCS, Manse Rd Basin.
Bridge Inn at Ratho: red diesel available ('phone ahead 0131 333 1320)
Shell Station N of Br 7
Esso Station N of Bridge 4

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY
Falkirk Royal Infirmary 01324 624000
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh 0131 536 1000

TRANSPORT INFORMATION
Traveline (Bus) 08706082608
National Rail 08457 484950

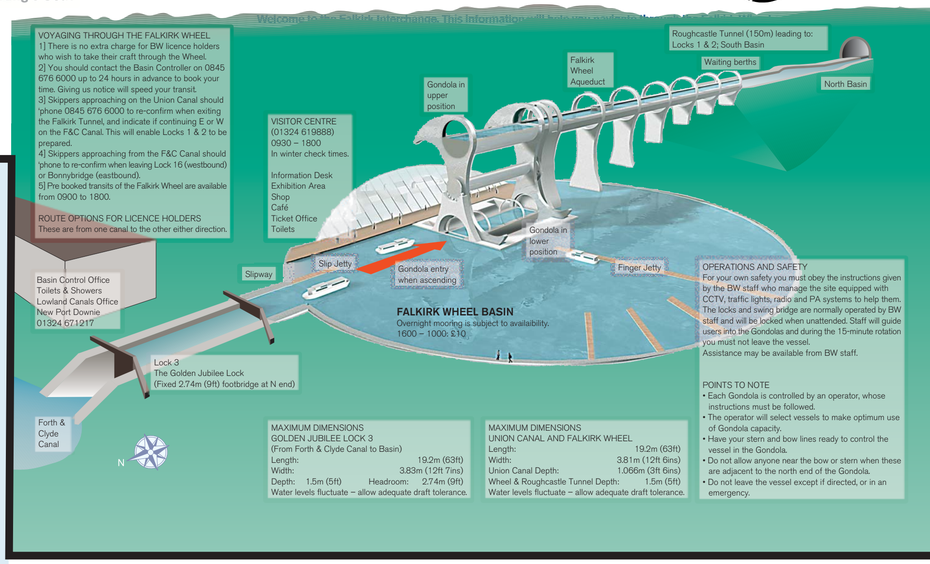
TAXI SERVICES (For Falkirk see F&C info)
Brightons (01324) 718441
Linlithgow (01506) 845313
Broxburn (01506) 855655; 855000; 858161
Ratho (0131) 331 1041
Edinburgh (0131) 288 1211; 466 2491; 229 2468; 221 0606; 666 1333; 555 5911; 538 8595

PUBS/RESTAURANTS WITHIN 10 MINS WALK
Falkirk: Many pubs, cafés and restaurants in town centre
Polmont & Brightons: Cadgers Brae; The Black Bull
Linlithgow: The Star & Garter Hotel; The Auld Hole I' The Wa'; The Four Marys; other cafés & restaurants nearby
Winchburgh: Tally Ho Inn
Port Buchan: The Grenadier Bar.
Ratho: The Bridge Inn
Edinburgh Quay: short walk or bus trip to city centre

BOAT REPAIRS AND SERVICES
Forth Yacht Marina, Grangemouth. 01324 665071
Kelvin Marine, Grangemouth. 01324 471535 & 07833 953288
LUCS, Linlithgow. See above
Bridge Inn, Ratho provides: Fuel, Gas, Pump-out, Dry Dock. 'Phone 0131 333 1320 in advance
The Bosun's Locker, Port Edgar 0131 331 4496
Sea Span, Granton 0131 552 2224

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL

The Falkirk Wheel



UNION CANAL

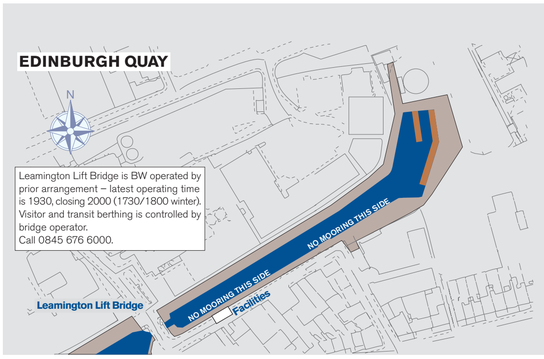
WINDING HOLES
There are 33 turning places on the Union Canal, shown by a circular arrow
Those over 25m are highlighted in red.

UNION CANAL FACILITIES AND DISTANCES

[Distances are approximate, to nearest mile]

	Falkirk Wheel	Greenbank	Linlithgow Basin	LUCS*	Winchburgh	Port Buchan	Drumshoreland	Bridge Inn	Ratho Basin	Harrison Park	Edinburgh Quay		
Visitor Mooring	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Water	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Refuse disposal	✓			✓				✓			✓		
Parking	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Toilets	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓			
Shower	✓					✓	✓			✓			
Elsan Disposal	✓			✓				✓					
Pump-out	✓			✓				✓					
Slipway	✓		✓										
Fuel (diesel)	✓			✓				✓					
Information	✓							✓			✓		
Pub	✓					✓		✓			✓		
Restaurant	✓							✓			✓		
Boat hire	✓										✓		
Places of Interest	✓										✓		
Miles to Edinburgh	34	33	22	22	16	13	12	8	8	1	0		
Miles to Falkirk	0	1	12	12	18	21	22	26	26	33	34		

EDINBURGH QUAY

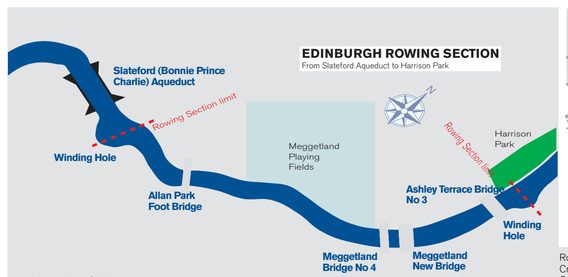


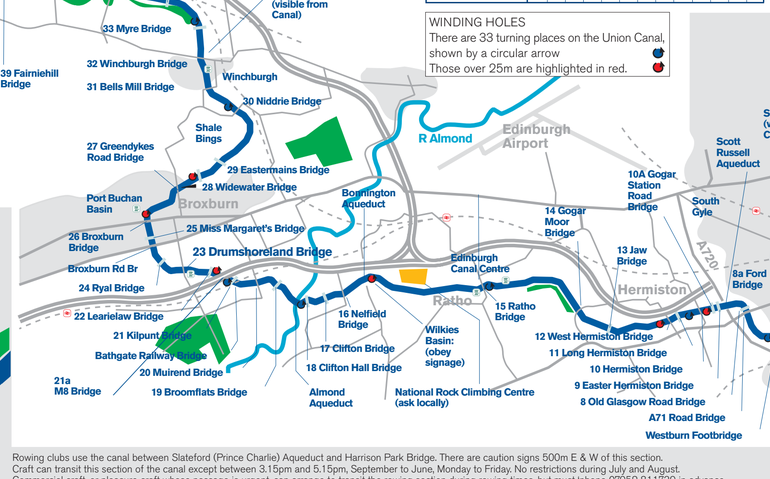
WINDING HOLES
There are 33 turning places on the Union Canal, shown by a circular arrow
Those over 25m are highlighted in red.

The Falkirk Tunnel is a narrow tunnel with room for one way traffic only.
Please comply with the safety information signs and the light signals displayed at each end of the tunnel.
PREPARATION
Switch on your headlight, navigation lights and some interior lights.
Whoever is steering should have a waterproof torch, and put on some waterproof clothing.
TRAFFIC LIGHTS
FIXED RED = Tunnel clear of traffic. Proceed towards the entrance with caution.
The light will change to FIXED GREEN as you pass the sensor, confirming that you are clear to proceed.
FLASHING RED = Boat, or several boats, approaching in the tunnel. Wait, (moored) clear of the entrance. The light will turn to FIXED GREEN when the opposing traffic has cleared the tunnel.
When entering the tunnel always check that it is clear, and that no other vessels, particularly small craft, have come through against the signals.
APPROACH
Approach slowly on the towpath side.
If you have to wait your turn, stay well clear of the entrance.
As you go in, sound one long blast on your horn.
IN TRANSIT
Steer by looking at one side of the tunnel only and keep to a moderate speed. Move the tiller or wheel as little as possible – it's a common illusion to feel that the boat is being pulled to the side.
Keep at least 2 minutes (at normal cruising speed), or about 160m, behind any boat in front of you.
You must not stop in the tunnel.

EDINBURGH ROWING SECTION

From Slateford Aqueduct to Harrison Park

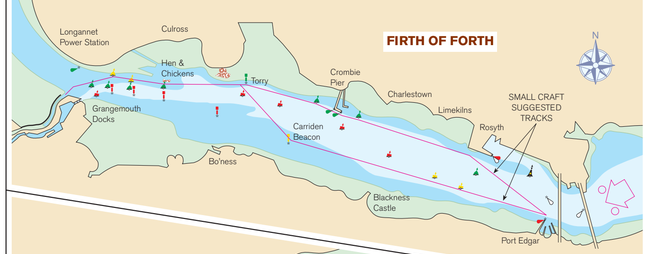


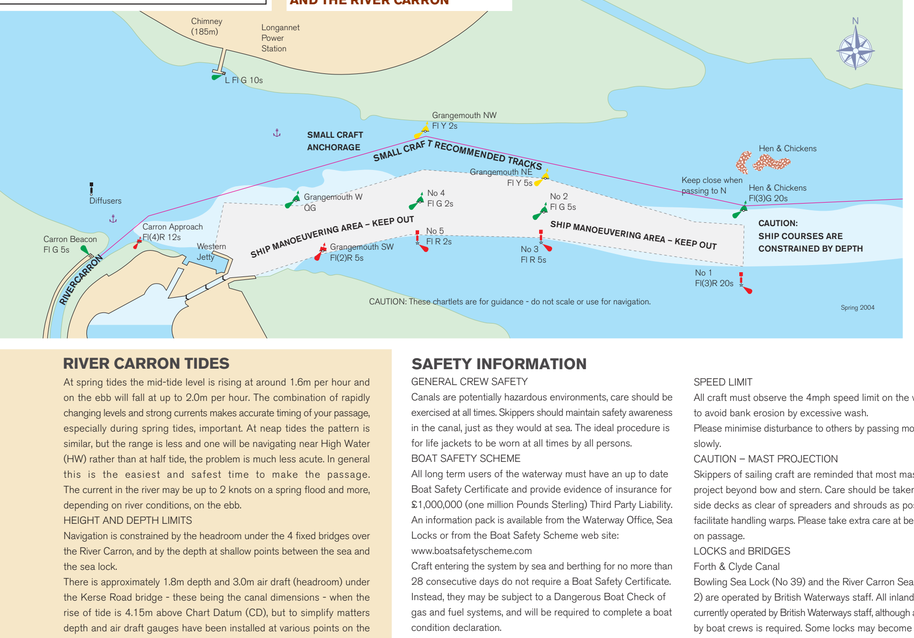


Rowing clubs use the canal between Slateford (Prince Charlie) Aqueduct and Harrison Park Bridge. There are caution signs 500m E & W of this section.
Craft can transit this section of the canal except between 3.15pm and 5.15pm, September to June, Monday to Friday. No restrictions during July and August.
Commercial craft, or pleasure craft whose passage is urgent, can arrange to transit the rowing section during rowing times. but must 'phone 07952 811739 in advance.

PILOTAGE NOTES

- Passage from the River Carron entrance to the Forth & Clyde Canal Sea Lock is restricted by depth and overhead obstructions. Consult the Tides and Currents Information below, and the Tidal Predictions for Carron Sea Lock.
- Once the Carron access time window has been established, allow sufficient time for the passage (10 miles from Forth Road Bridge/ Port Edgar) to the river mouth, and then to the Sea Lock (a further 2.5 miles).
- Passage from Port Edgar/ Forth Bridges to the Torry Beacon may be made either on the north or south side of the main shipping channel.
- West of the Hen & Chickens the N side must be used.
- Vessels should monitor Grangemouth Docks on VHF Ch 14, but do not need to report, except in case of emergency or difficulty.
- Ships may cross the mouth of the River Carron on their approach to the Western Jetty.
- If tugs are waiting in the fairway, a large vessel may be due. Keep well clear and beware of wash.
- Small craft may anchor in the positions shown, or in the mouth of the River Carron as depth permits, to await the tide.
- Charts: Admiralty Chart 737 and/or Imray Chart C27. Pilot: Forth Yacht Clubs' Association Pilot Handbook.





RIVER CARRON TIDES

At spring tides the mid-tide level is rising at around 1.6m per hour and on the ebb will fall at up to 2.0m per hour. The combination of rapidly changing levels and strong currents makes accurate timing of your passage, especially during spring tides, important. At neap tides the pattern is similar, but the range is less and one will be navigating near High Water (HW) rather than at half tide, the problem is much less acute. In general this is the easiest and safest time to make the passage. The current in the river may be up to 2 knots on a spring flood and more, depending on river conditions, on the ebb.

HEIGHT AND DEPTH LIMITS

Navigation is constrained by the headroom under the 4 fixed bridges over the River Carron, and by the depth at shallow points between the sea and the sea lock.

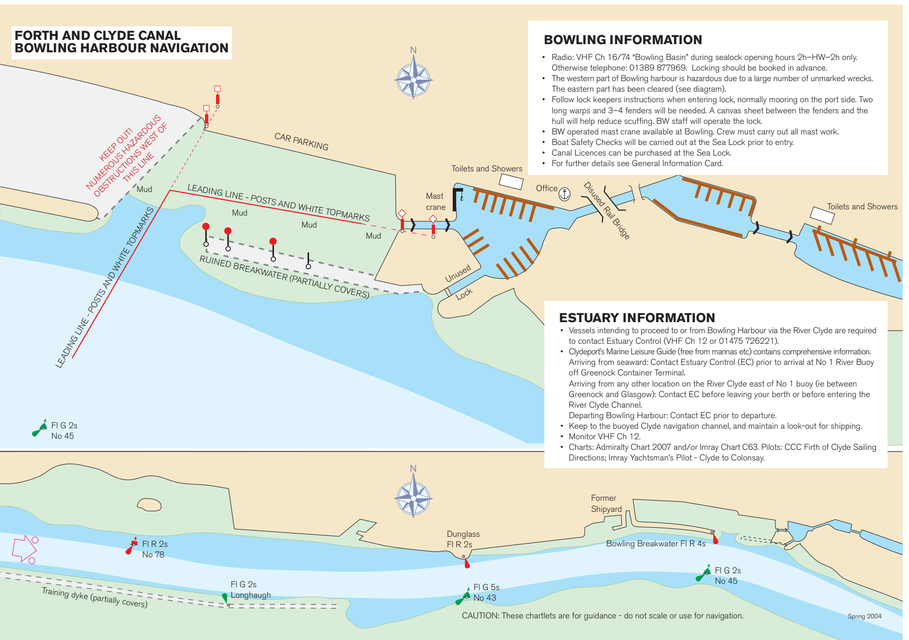
There is approximately 1.8m depth and 3.0m air draft (headroom) under the Kerse Road bridge - these being the canal dimensions - when the rise of tide is 4.15m above Chart Datum (CD), but to simplify matters depth and air draft gauges have been installed at various points on the river.

GOING UPSTREAM

NEAP TIDES (less than 5.0m, HW around 0900/2100 UT)
The optimum tide level will probably occur between 1.5 and 2.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 1.0 hour after HW. Tidal current will be slight. As a general rule skippers should begin the up river passage on a flood tide as soon as they consider that there is sufficient depth.

SPRING TIDES (more than 5.0m, HW occurring around 0300/1500 UT)
The optimum tide level will probably occur between 3.0 and 3.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 2.0 hours after HW. Tidal current will be strong.

For more information consult the LOWLAND CANALS TIDE TABLES (£1), available from Lowland Canals office and sea-locks.



BOWLING INFORMATION

- Radio: VHF Ch 16/74 "Bowling Basin" during sealock opening hours 2h–HW–2h only. Otherwise telephone: 01389 877969. Locking should be booked in advance.
- The western part of Bowling harbour is hazardous due to a large number of unmarked wrecks. The eastern part has been cleared (see diagram).
- Follow lock keepers instructions when entering lock, normally mooring on the port side. Two long warps and 3–4 fenders will be needed. A canvas sheet between the fenders and the hull will help reduce scuffing. BW staff will operate the lock.
- BW operated mast crane available at Bowling. Crew must carry out all mast work.
- Boat Safety Checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- For further details see General Information Card.

ESTUARY INFORMATION

- Vessels intending to proceed to or from Bowling Harbour via the River Clyde are required to contact Estuary Control (VHF Ch 12 or 01475 726221).
- Clydeport's Marine Leisure Guide (free from marinas etc) contains comprehensive information.
  Arriving from seaward: Contact Estuary Control (EC) prior to arrival at No 1 River Buoy off Greenock Container Terminal.
  Arriving from any other location on the River Clyde east of No 1 buoy (ie between Greenock and Glasgow): Contact EC before leaving your berth or before entering the River Clyde Channel.
  Departing Bowling Harbour: Contact EC prior to departure.
- Keep to the buoyed Clyde navigation channel, and maintain a look-out for shipping.
- Monitor VHF Ch 12.
- Charts: Admiralty Chart 2007 and/or Imray Chart C63. Pilots: CCC Firth of Clyde Sailing Directions; Imray Yachtsman's Pilot - Clyde to Colonsay.

SAFETY INFORMATION

GENERAL CREW SAFETY

Canals are potentially hazardous environments, care should be exercised at all times. Skippers should maintain safety awareness in the canal, just as they would at sea. The ideal procedure is for life jackets to be worn at all times by all persons.

BOAT SAFETY SCHEME

All long term users of the waterway must have an up to date Boat Safety Certificate and provide evidence of insurance for £1,000,000 (one million Pounds Sterling) Third Party Liability. An information pack is available from the Waterway Office, Sea Locks or from the Boat Safety Scheme web site: www.boatsafetyscheme.com

Craft entering the system by sea and berthing for no more than 28 consecutive days do not require a Boat Safety Certificate. Instead, they may be subject to a Dangerous Boat Check of gas and fuel systems, and will be required to complete a boat condition declaration.

SWIMMING

Although the canal may look inviting, please do not swim in it, as there may be underwater obstructions, and the banks can be steep.

VHF

Sea Locks: VHF Channel 16 / 74.
Call signs "Bowling Basin" and "Carron Sea Lock".
VHF coverage on inland reaches is not consistent.

RADAR

Skippers must ensure that radar scanners are switched off while craft are in the canal, and when entering sea locks.

SPEED LIMIT

All craft must observe the 4mph speed limit on the waterway to avoid bank erosion by excessive wash.
Please minimise disturbance to others by passing moored craft slowly.

CAUTION – MAST PROJECTION

Skippers of sailing craft are reminded that most masts will project beyond bow and stern. Care should be taken to leave side decks as clear of spreaders and shrouds as possible to facilitate handling warps. Please take extra care at bends whilst on passage.

LOCKS and BRIDGES

Forth & Clyde Canal
Bowling Sea Lock (No 39) and the River Carron Sea Lock (No 2) are operated by British Waterways staff. All inland locks are currently operated by British Waterways staff, although assistance by boat crews is required. Some locks may become user operated during 2006.

MAIN OPENING BRIDGES

Erskine Ferry, Sylvannia Way footbridge, Hillhead, Twechar and Bonnybridge bridges are hydraulically actuated, and operated by British Waterways staff. Bridge openings will not take place during peak road traffic times on week days. Automated road bridge operation is expected to take in the region of 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the number of vessels.

Union Canal Locks and Bridges

British Waterways staff will operate the two locks above The Falkirk Wheel. Contact number 0845 6766000. Mooring ropes must be used in both locks.

Leamington Lift Bridge near Lochrin Basin, Edinburgh. British Waterways staff will operate this bridge by prior arrangement – see diagram.

USE OF LOCKS BY PORTABLE CRAFT

When unpowered and portable craft are considered too large to portage round locks they may transit through the locks. They must be warped through on ropes with no-one on board. Whenever possible such craft will be encouraged to portage round locks for safety and water economy reasons.

THE ENVIRONMENT

British Waterways operates a Port Waste Management Plan, agreed with the Maritime Coastguard Agency and SEPA. Please help us to keep the Lowland Canals tidy by disposing of rubbish in a thoughtful manner. In particular, plastic bags thrown overboard could block water intakes, or foul propellers. It is an offence to discharge oil, or oily bilge water, into the canal, or its adjacent waters. Any contravention of this rule will be reported to the Marine Coastguard Agency. If you require to empty bilges please contact British Waterways, who may be able to arrange for specialist contractors (at additional cost).

EMERGENCIES

In the event of an emergency summon assistance by whatever means is available – such as mobile 'phone, public telephone, or by enlisting the help of others.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Number (inc Coastguard)	999
BW Emerg. (non office hours)	0800 47 999 47

Other Useful Numbers

Customer Service	0845 6766000
Lowland Canals Waterway Office	01324 671217
BW Scotland Head Office	0141 332 6936
Falkirk Wheel Basin Controller	01324 676912
Falkirk Wheel Visitor Centre	01324 619888

ROWING

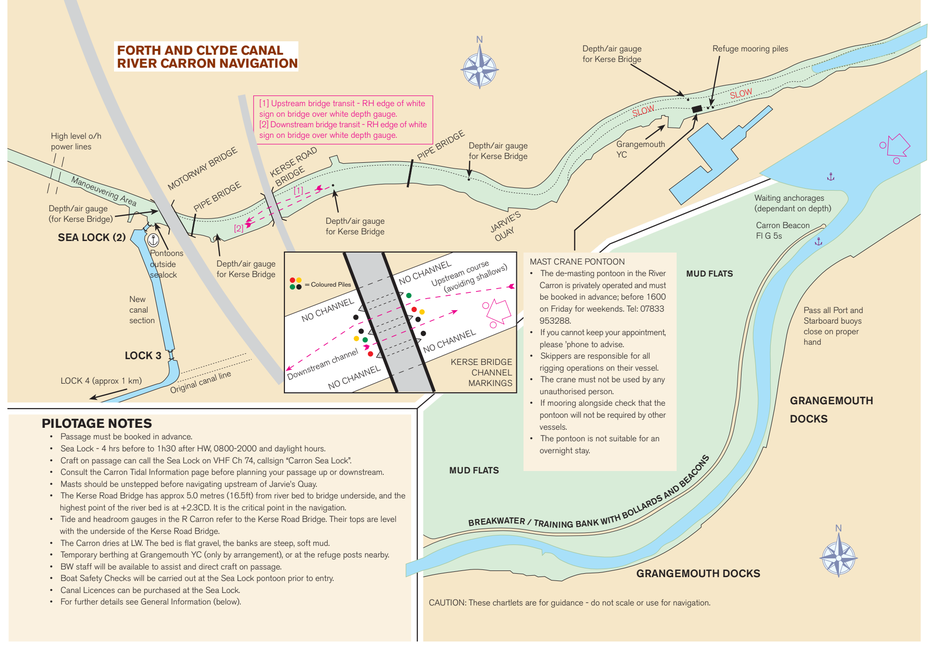
Rowing clubs use the section of Union Canal from Slateford (Prince Charlie) Aqueduct to Harrison Park (between Ashley Terrace Bridge and Harrison Park Bridge). Signs cautioning boaters have been erected 500 metres E & W of this section. Please refer to the diagram and procedure detailed overleaf.

SAFETY AT GRANGEMOUTH

The River Carron comes within the safety zone for the Grangemouth Petroleum and Chemical Complex.
In the event of a major escape of toxic gas public warning sirens will be sounded, as follows:
The Alert Siren will have a two-tone sound operating continuously for 5 minutes, followed by 1 minute off. This alert cycle will be repeated for as long as it is considered necessary.
The All Clear will be a Single Tone Sound and will last for 5 minutes.
Anyone hearing the sirens, or without warning is affected to the point of discomfort by any gas, should immediately extinguish all naked lights and go inside shutting all doors, windows and vents.
If you are under way on the River Carron, proceed to the nearest mooring point (see sailing instructions) and then follow the above procedure.

The Skipper has sole responsibility for safe navigation of the vessel through the canal. Specifically, the skipper is responsible for the safe passage of the vessel under bridges, and through tunnels and locks. No warranty, assurance, undertaking or representation is given or made by or on behalf of the Board regarding the safe passage of a vessel through the canal. This does not affect your statutory or common law rights.

A large print version of this Guide is available for visually impaired users on application to the Lowland Canals Office.



MAST CRANE PONTOON

- The de-masting pontoon in the River Carron is privately operated and must be booked in advance; before 1600 on Friday for weekends. Tel: 07833 953288.
- If you cannot keep your appointment, please 'phone to advise.
- Skippers are responsible for all rigging operations on their vessel.
- The crane must not be used by any unauthorised person.
- If mooring alongside check that the pontoon will not be required by other vessels.
- The pontoon is not suitable for an overnight stay.

PILOTAGE NOTES

- Passage must be booked in advance.
- Sea Lock - 4 hrs before to 1h30 after HW, 0800-2000 and daylight hours.
- Craft on passage can call the Sea Lock on VHF Ch 74, callsign "Carron Sea Lock".
- Consult the Carron Tidal Information page before planning your passage up or downstream.
- Masts should be unstepped before navigating upstream of Jarvie's Quay.
- The Kerse Road Bridge has approx 5.0 metres (16.5ft) from river bed to bridge underside, and the highest point of the river bed is at +2.2CD. It is the critical point in the navigation.
- Tide and headroom gauges in the R Carron refer to the Kerse Road Bridge. Their tops are level with the underside of the Kerse Road Bridge.
- The Carron dries at LW. The bed is flat gravel, the banks are steep, soft mud.
- Temporary berthing at Grangemouth YC (only by arrangement), or at the refuge posts nearby.
- BW staff will be available to assist and direct craft on passage.
- Boat Safety Checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock pontoon prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- For further details see General Information (below).

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOATERS HANDBOOK

All licence holders are entitled to a free copy of our Boaters Handbook. Keep it on board the boat and encourage all crew members to follow it. Please ask for a copy at the sea lock or at the waterway office. The handbook contains information common to inland waterways generally, not locally specific information.

OPERATING TIMES (2006)

The Lowland Canals operate 7 days a week from early March to late October, between the hours of 0800 and 1800 (Bonnybridge to Lock 20, Sats., June-Aug 0800–2000). Winter hours: check stoppages programme. Operating hours for Carron Sea Lock, Auchinstarry Basin, Bowling Basin, Edinburgh Quay: spring and summer 0800–2000, winter 0800–1800.
Last lockings are 1/2 hour before closing: late lockings can be arranged on the Forth & Clyde Canal at £35 per lock).
For more information contact 0845 676 6000.

MAXIMUM CHANNEL DIMENSIONS

All measured from the water surface. Add 10cm (4inches) to your sea water draught to compensate for reduced buoyancy in fresh water, and allow for the weight of extra equipment, fuel and water which may increase your draught.
Leave a safety margin for underkeel clearance and for fluctuating water levels, which may effect channel depth and headroom. The headroom at the railway bridge below Lock 9, and at Merer's Bridge between Locks 7 & 8, may be reduced due to increases in water flows from locks in operation upstream.

Forth & Clyde:

Lock Length:	19.2m (63ft)*
Width / Beam:	6.00m (19ft 8in)
Channel Depth:	1.83m (6ft)
Maximum Headroom	3.00m (9ft 10in)

* Slightly longer vessels, depending on their hull shape, may be accommodated. Contact 0845 676 6000 when planning passage.

Forth & Clyde Canal, Glasgow Branch:

Width / Beam:	5.02m (16ft 6in)
Channel Depth:	1.4m (4ft 6in)
Maximum Headroom:	3.00m (9ft 10in)

Note: Planned dredging will increase channel depth.

Union Canal & The Falkirk Wheel:

Lock Length:	21.3m (70ft)
Width:	3.5m (11ft 6in)
Channel Depth:	1.06m (3ft 6in)
Maximum Headroom:	2.7m (8ft 10in)

The Falkirk Wheel and Roughcastle Tunnel

Channel Depth	1.5m (5ft)
Maximum Headroom:	2.7m (8ft 10in)

Golden Jubilee Lock: (Lock 3: F&C into basin)

Length:	21.3m (70ft)
Width / Beam:	3.83m (12ft 6in)
Channel Depth:	1.5m (5ft)
Max headroom:	2.74m (9ft)

SHOWERS, TOILETS, WATER, REFUSE POINTS & SHORE POWER

Available at locations throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities grids. Access is via a British Waterways passkey, which is available from the Waterway Office or the sea locks. A refundable deposit is required.

PUMP OUT FACILITIES

The use of sea toilets within the waterway is prohibited. Vessels with holding tanks can use the pump-out facilities (chargeable) located throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities information.

FUEL

Marine diesel is available at Bowling, Auchinstarry, Lock 2, the Falkirk Wheel (on F&C) and at the Bridge Inn, Ratho. Petrol & Derv can be obtained from local garages.
We would remind owners to exercise care during refuelling to avoid risk of fire or pollution.

CANAL LICENCES

All craft using the canals must have an up to date licence on display at all times. For more information please refer to the accompanying
Licence / Mooring Permit information sheet, or visit www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland

PASSAGE TIMES – A GUIDE

The Forth & Clyde Canal is 56km (31 nautical miles, 34.5 statute miles) from the River Carron Sea Lock on the Firth of Forth, to Bowling on the Firth of Clyde, and there are 39 locks to negotiate.
Skippers should allow a minimum of 21 hours underway, divided approximately as follows (east to west):

Carron Sea Lock (no 2) to Lock	16 6 hours
Lock 16 to Auchinstarry Basin	3 hours
Auchinstarry Basin to Lock 27	6 hours
Lock 27 to Bowling Sea lock	6 hours

Sufficient time should be allowed for passage from Port Edgar and negotiation of the River Carron to the Sea Lock.

The Union Canal

This canal is 51km long (31.5 nautical miles, 35 statute miles) from Lochrin Basin in Edinburgh to just above The Falkirk Wheel. It is a contour canal with only one moving structure – Leamington Lift Bridge in Edinburgh. This can be negotiated by prior arrangement with the Waterway Office, and the last operating time is 7.30pm (Check winter stoppages programme for winter times.)
Skippers should allow a minimum of 12 hours under way, divided as follows:

Lochrin Basin to Ratho Br (15)	2 hours
Ratho Br to Almond Aqueduct (18)	1/2 hour
Almond Aqueduct to Craigton Br (35)	2 hours
Craigton Br to Linlithgow	2 hours
Linlithgow to Brightons Br (54)	2 hours
Brightons Br to Falkirk Wheel	2 hours

CREWING REQUIREMENTS

British Waterways staff will be on hand to assist at all locks and bridges on the Forth & Clyde Canal, but craft must have sufficient crew to assist staff with lockings. Faster progress will be made if each craft has more than one spare person available to work ashore.
If you require further information on the working and manning of locks, please contact the Waterway Office. See the Bowling and River Carron sailing Instructions for further information on assistance in the approaches to the canal and in the Sea Locks.

DALMUIR DROP LOCK

This lock is situated near the western end of the canal at Dalmuir, and provides passage below Dumbarton Road. The lock is situated on a sharp bend on the canal and care should be taken whilst approaching from either direction. Moor outside the lock to await instructions from British Waterways staff.
Locking time 40 mins.

FALKIRK TUNNEL

The tunnel is narrow with room for one way traffic only. Please comply with the safety information displayed on the signs located at the tunnel entrances, and with the light signals.
You must not stop in the tunnel, and unpowered craft may not navigate the tunnel.
Please consult the diagram and notes in this Guide.

ROUGHCASTLE TUNNEL

As above, but as BW staff are on hand at this location, please accept their verbal instructions.

SKIPPER'S GUIDE - NOTE

This document is for the general guidance of waterway users, and should not be treated as Navigation Rules or Bye-laws. General or local instructions published by BW, and directions given by BW staff, should be followed.

Cover photograph by Johan Ohlsson. Publication date: April 2006

British Waterways Scotland, Lowland Canals, New Port Downie, Lime Road, Tamfourhill, Falkirk, FK1 4RS
Tel: 01324 671217, Fax: 01324 671225

Grangemouth Sea Lock: 01324 483034
Bowling Sea Lock: 01389 877969

British Waterways Scotland, Canal House, Applecross Street, Glasgow G4 9SP
Tel: 0141 332 6936, Fax: 0141 331 1688

Cnnan Canal, Pier Square, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8DZ
Tel: 01546 603210, Fax: 01546 603941

Caledonian Canal, Seaport Marina, Muirtown Wharf, Inverness IV3 5LE
Tel: 01463 725500, Fax: 01463 710942

Website www.britishwaterways.co.uk/scotland or www.waterscape.com
E-mail enquiries: enquiries.scotland@britishwaterways.co.uk

British Waterways Scotland

SKIPPER'S GUIDE

FORTH & CLYDE AND UNION CANALS

Discover the waterscape.com